

To register online please contact Diane Chen at dchen@eastern.edu for a Pre-Registration Form, Tour Code, and a Host ID Number

The
Jerusalem
Center for
Biblical
Studies



Join Dr. Diane Chen & Dr. Deborah Watson *Holy Land Study Tour*

with Palmer Theological Seminary
of Eastern University

December 27, 2022 - January 8, 2023



Hosts:
Dr. Diane
Chen
&
Dr. Deborah
Watson



Instructor:
Dr. Monte
Luker



All-Inclusive Price starting at: **\$4,850*** from PHILADELPHIA or **\$3,104*** GROUND ONLY

Your Journey Includes:

Guided Sightseeing & On-Site Lectures • Admin. Fees, Entrance Fees, Hotel Gratuities & Program Fees
Breakfast & Dinner Daily and most Lunches • Deluxe Motorcoaches • First-Class Hotels And Much, Much More!

*All prices reflect a 4% cash discount. Single Supplement is \$1756

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HOST BIOS



Dr. Diane Chen

Dr. Diane Chen is Professor of New Testament at Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University, where she has been teaching since 2004. Diane loves the classroom and enjoys writing for the church, making biblical scholarship intellectually accessible and spiritually edifying to the laity. Her books include *God as Father in Luke-Acts* (2005), *Let Me More of Their Beauty See: Reading Familiar Verses in Context* (2011), and *Luke: A New Covenant Commentary* (2017). Diane is an ordained Ruling Elder at Narberth Presbyterian Church, Narberth, PA.

Dr. Deborah Watson

Rev. Dr. Deborah Watson serves as Associate Pastor of Narberth Presbyterian Church in Narberth, PA, where she began as a seminary intern in 1993. Prior to her seminary study, she taught French and English as a Second Language to high school students in New Hampshire. She also spent time studying and working in Paris, France and on a kibbutz in Israel. Debbie has taught at Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University since 1995. She is currently the Seminary's Chaplain, and Affiliate Professor in New Testament, Greek, and Theological Research & Writing.

YOUR INSTRUCTOR



Dr. Monte Luker

Monte Luker is the Academic Dean of the Jerusalem Center for Biblical Studies. He has lived, studied, and taught in the Holy Land for the past 30 years. In addition to the

Holy Land, his primary interests are in the literary and theological analysis of Scripture, and he has contributed numerous articles to *Mercer Dictionary of the Bible*, *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, *New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, as well as scholarly and church-related journals. Dr. Luker's books include *Doom and Hope in Micah*; *Passion, Vitality, and Foment: The Dynamics of Second Temple Judaism*; and *An Illustrated Guide to the Holy Land For Tour Groups, Students, and Pilgrims* (see www.eotours.co/monteluker). Dr. Luker has been Adjunct Professor of Bible at the Jerusalem Center for Biblical Studies since 1995. He is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature, the American Schools of Oriental Research, the Biblical Archaeology Society, and the National Association of Professors of Hebrew.



December 27: Depart Philadelphia

December 28: Arrive Tel Aviv

Transfer to Netanya on the beautiful shore of the Mediterranean Sea for overnight. Walk the beach or go for a swim before you watch the stunning sunset.

December 29: The Birth of the Gentile Church, The Life of the Holy Family in Nazareth

Visit Caesarea (Acts 10), Nazareth, the Basilica of the Annunciation (Mary's house), including a museum with ruins of the first-century village. Overnight in Tiberias on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

December 30: Jesus' Ministry around the Sea of Galilee

Take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Travel to Ginosar and see a first-century fishing boat, Capernaum, and the Mount of Beatitudes. Visit Magdala with a guide. Have closing worship in Encounter Chapel. Overnight in Tiberias.

December 31: The Golan Heights

Take a nature walk in Tel Dan, then see Caesarea Philippi (Peter's Confession, Matthew 16). Have lunch at the Druze village of Birkat Ram. Overlook the UN peace-keeping force at Kuneitra. Overnight in Tiberias.

January 1: Baptism of Jesus

Affirm your Baptism at the Yardenit on the Jordan River. Travel to Samaria and have lunch in Sabaste with a view of Tel Dan. See Jacob's Well. Overnight in En Gedi on the shore of the Dead Sea.

January 2: Free day

This is a day of rest on the peaceful shores of the Dead Sea in the Judean Wilderness. Visit the spa, float in the sea, and perhaps indulge in a massage. Overnight in En Gedi.

January 3: Zealots and Essenes

Travel to Masada, the last stand of the Zealots. Visit Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Have lunch in Jericho and take a cable car to the Mount of Temptation. Overnight in Jerusalem.

January 4: The Birth of Jesus

Visit Bethlehem and see the Church of the Nativity, built over the cave-barn where Jesus was born. Visit an olive wood factory, a major industry of the Palestinian Christians. See the Shepherds' Field and the Herodium. Have lunch at The Tent in Shepherds' Field. Overnight in Jerusalem.

January 5: Ancient Jerusalem

Today we see the Temple Mount with Temple Mount excavations (Davidson Center) and the Western Wall. Lunch is on your own in the Jewish Quarter. Tour the City of David and Hezekiah's Tunnel. Overnight in Jerusalem.

January 6: The Passion of Christ

Holy Sepulchre Church with Golgatha and the Tomb of Christ. See the Upper Room. Have lunch in the Armenian Quarter. Visit the Mount of Olives, Bethphage, Pater Noster, Dominus Fleuit and the Garden of Gethsemane. Overnight in Jerusalem.

January 7: Taking It Home

Take Communion Service at the Garden Tomb and explore the Israel Museum. Lunch is on your own. The rest of the day is free in Jerusalem.

January 8: Depart Israel and arrive in Philadelphia



**Palmer Seminary Holy Land Study Tour
December 27, 2022 to January 8, 2023**

Additional Information and Highlights of the Fine Print on the Brochure

1. Israel Entry Requirement

Entry requirements are subject to change. We are still many months from December 27, but it is important to know the up-to-date information on the website of Israel's Ministry of Health: <https://corona.health.gov.il/en/abroad/arriving-foreign-nationals/>. It also specifies who is considered vaccinated and who is considered recovered from COVID for entry eligibility.

Currently (3/10/2022), these are the general requirements:

- Negative PCR test results taken 72 hours before boarding the flight to Israel
- Travel insurance with coverage for treating COVID-19
- Fill out entry statement form 48 hours before the flight to receive a green pass
- Another PCR test at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport upon arrival
- Quarantine at the hotel for 24 hours or until the test results come out, whichever is sooner. If the test result is negative, we are free to move

It takes about 7 hours for the PCR test taken at Ben Gurion airport to be made available. If we arrive in Israel around mid-afternoon, we take our tests, head for the hotel, have dinner, and rest up. By the time we get up the next morning, the results will be ready and off we go.

2. Visa and Passport

If you hold a US or Canadian passport, you do not need a visa. Otherwise, you are responsible for obtaining a visa to Israel prior to the trip.

All passports must have an expiration date more than 6 months after our return date. So, if we return on Jan 8, your passport must expire after July 8, 2023.

If you need to apply for a new passport or renew your existing passport, start the process right away. It takes much longer for the State Department to process passport these days. Do not procrastinate if your passport is not ready to go.

Go to: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html/>

3. Pre-Registration and Registration Priority

Because of limited space (the maximum size of the group is 40), we request that you fill out this Pre-Registration Form to let us know you are seriously interested in joining us, before we provide the information to register online for the tour. A spot is guaranteed only with a paid initial deposit of \$600.

Pre-Registration Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/doByXfgVC651nBor7>

(click on this link, preferably with your web browser already open)

For Palmer's Holy Land Study Tour, priority goes to Palmer Seminary and Eastern University students/faculty/staff/alumni and their traveling companion with whom to share a room for double occupancy. If there is space, we also welcome other family members or church friends.

4. Payment Schedule for Trip Cost

- (a) \$600 initial deposit due upon online registration to hold a spot on the tour
- (b) \$1200 second payment due on 9/13/2022 so that your account has a total of \$1800 for the plane ticketing
- (c) Balance due on 10/13/22

Registrations after 9/13/22 will incur a late registration fee of \$100 between 9/14-9/28 and \$200 between 9/29 and 10/13.

5. Payment Method (Important!!)

The prices on the brochure are ****cash prices**** with a built in 4% discount. We may pay the first \$600 via credit card, but beyond that, any additional credit card payments, even for \$1 more, would incur a 4% surcharge on the **entire** trip cost.

Therefore, for the 9/13/22 and 10/13/22 payments, it is cheaper to mail a check, or better, pay online by electronic fund transfer with the bank routing number and your checking account number.

Paying by EFT is fast, reliable, with no service charge.

6. Travel Insurance

Under normal circumstances, travel insurance is optional.

If Israel requires insurance coverage even to enter the country, then we have to have travel insurance. *But, again, entry requirements are subject to change. So you can make that decision around August or early September.*

EO Tours offers a Trip Protection Plan through TripMate for \$499, but you may also buy your own travel insurance, as long as you are able to show coverage at the airport when you enter the country, if that is still required in December.

The TripMate premium is due in full on 9/13/22 for the coverage to be effective. See the details on p.4 of the brochure, or go to www.tripmate.com/wpF427E

7. All-inclusive vs. Ground-only

The main difference between all-inclusive (\$4850) and ground-only (\$3104) is the plane ticket. Almost all participants sign up for the all-inclusive package, so that our plane tickets are purchased at the same time, on the same flight, departing from Philadelphia, through our tour company, Educational Opportunities Tours. Because the plane tickets are bought as a batch, they are unchangeable and non-refundable once issued. The itinerary will be released 2-4 weeks before departure.

Those who opt for ground-only is responsible for getting themselves to Tel Aviv and meeting up with the big group, whether at the airport or at the first night's hotel. If there is any delay or interruption, the group cannot wait and the ground-only traveler will have to catch up with the group wherever the others may be at his or her own expense.

8. Roommate and Single Supplement

If you already have a roommate to go on the trip together, you don't have to worry about this. If you are coming by yourself, we will pair you up with an appropriate roommate. If you want a room to yourself the entire time, you will have to pay a single supplement of \$1756, which is very costly. It is highly recommended that you recruit someone to come with you.

9. Cancellations

The Travel Protection Program will cover all cancellation fees if premium has been paid and the reason for cancellation is coverable.

If you cancel before 9/13/22 after paying \$600 initial deposit, you will be charged \$100 non-refundable fee, so you get \$500 back.

Any cancellation after 9/13/22 will lead to increasingly steep cancellation penalties the closer you are to the departure date. The cancellation fees are listed on p.4 of the brochure.

So, in general, if you must cancel, cancel before 9/13/22.

10. Physical Fitness for Traveling in Israel

This is important. On p.4 of the brochure is this statement printed in boldface:

Passengers registering for the tour accept the responsibility for being in good health and able to walk and travel on the tour. Because many of the sights are not accessible to the physically challenged, those needing oxygen, wheelchairs, or other ambulatory assistance will find the tour extremely limiting to their experiences. JCBS/EOT reserves the right to refuse or revoke travel to anyone who is, in the sole judgment of JCBS/EOT, incapable of group travel without causing undue demands upon the staff or other tour participants. Accessible rooms/cabins are limited and subject to confirmation after receiving the passenger's written request.

Simply put, there is quite a lot of walking each day, sometimes on bumpy terrain, at others, up and down many steps and slopes. We are, after all, visiting quite a few archaeological sites. For the group to move smoothly and expeditiously through the itinerary, all participants need to keep up with the pace – which is reasonable, but not too too too slow. If you are not sure, please talk with Diane (dchen@eastern.edu) or Debbie (dwatson2@eastern.edu) and we can assess your concerns.

11. Academic credit for students

Current Eastern University and Palmer Seminary students may go on this tour and sign up for Spring 2023 BIBL 640 (3 credits) with Dr. Debbie Watson to fulfill an elective or a Master of Theological Studies summative project requirement. Tuition is in addition to the trip cost.

The Jerusalem Center for Biblical Studies issues a certificate for 3 continuing education units to all participants, whether you need the CEUs or not.

12. Read the fine print and 2 upcoming Zoom info sessions

The rest of the fine print contains standard boiler plate stipulations from the tour company. Please take some time to read p.4 of the brochure before you commit. Note what is included and what is not in the prices. Please email Diane (dchen@eastern.edu) if you have any questions.

We have planned **two Zoom information sessions** to share some personal takeaways about this trip, and to field any questions you may have:

(a) March 26, 2022, Saturday, 9-10 am

(b) April 2, 2022, Saturday, 9-10 am

Please email Diane (dchen@eastern.edu) that you'd like to come to either of these Zoom information sessions, and we will email you the Zoom link a few days prior to the meeting.